GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5799
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2007
DISCOVERY BY ONGC
Chinta Mohan Dr. ;Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan)

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item published in the `Economic Times` dated April 14, 2007 under the caption `ONGC admits no major discoveries in 20 years`;

(b) if so, whether the ONGC conferred with the status of `Navratna` has failed to explore any major oil and gas reserves;

(c) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the Government in regard to the working of the said company;

(d) whether the private sector oil companies have found any new reserves of oil and gas during the past years;and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the contribution of the private oil companies in the field of new discoveries and exploration, location-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS(SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a)to(c) Yes, Sir. It may be clarified that Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) considers the terminology `Major Discovery` as discovery of 500 MMboe (Million Barrels oil equivalent) of recoverable reserves, and ONGC not having made any such discovery during the period referred to the media article would have a degree of validity.
It may, however, be stated that ONGC`s exploration strategy is a mix of resource utilization for exploration while also concentrating its efforts towards field growth. Thus, ONGC has also been focusing on exploration in areas contiguous to known discoveries. If the discovered 20 major fields of ONGC are considered, in the twenty year period mentioned in the article (1987-2007), ONGC has, in fact, accreted 3990 MMboe (O+OEG) of recoverable reserves equivalent to eight majors (giants). The discoveries made by ONGC under Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) regime are under various stages of appraisal. Size of discoveries will be known after the appraisal.
ONGC has established 2876.98 million metric tonnes of oil and oil equivalent gas (MMtoe) inplace including accretion from field growth which includes 1811.21 MMt oil inplace in the last twenty years (1987-2007).

(d)&(e) Yes, Sir. As far as Private Companies / Joint Ventures (JVs) are concerned, new oil & gas reserves have been found in the country during the past years. The initial in-place reserves established by Private Companies / JVs from few new discoveries as on 31.3.2006 are oil 244 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) and gas 408 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM). Other discoveries are at various stages of appraisal.
Details of exploration inputs and discoveries made by Private Companies / JVs are given in Annexure.